An Essay
On
Pneumonia

Respectfully submited to the faculty
of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania
On the 31st day of January
One thousand eight hundred & fifty three
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Pneumonia or, Lung fever, is a disease peculiar to cold and temperate latitudes, and is usually most prevalent in the winter and spring months.

The causes of Pneumonia are various, and persons having once been attacked are more likely to have it, than others who never have had it.

Suppressed hemorrhage and a tuberecular diathesis are predisposing causes.

Exciting causes are, sudden changes in the weather, taking cold, atmospheric influences, irritation caused by the inhalation of noxious vapours, mental emotions &c &c

It may also according to Laennec be caused by the bite of venomous serpents. It likewise is complicated with other diseases such as Small pox, fevers &c.

The most common in the list of causes by far, is the sudden suppression of perspiration.

Viewed pathologically, Pneumonia according to Laennec, presents three stages, first engorgement, or congestion, second hepatization third that of purulent infiltration.

In the first stage the lung loses its, elastic feel and does not have the former crepitus feel, it is of a bluish colour and becomes heavier and more

solid than natural, which we can detect by percussion.
In the second stage, the substance of the lung has very much the appearance of the liver. (which has ban termed hepatization) in this stage of the disease, the lung appears more solid, and heavier than in the first, and less crepitous, when cut or torn it has a granular appearance. These granulations are probably owing to the partial organization of the lymph, which has been effused in to the air cells of the lungs.
In the third or last stage, the lungs still remain hard and

granular as in the second, and when cut they discharge a purulent straw colored matter. in this stage the lungs are sometimes the seat of abscesses.

The phenomena elicited by means of auscultation and percussion. In the first stage, or stage of engorgement the crepitus ronchus sound becomes audible, by the means of percussion we still have the ordinary healthy sound, and the respiratory sound yet being audible, but in the second stage, or stage of hepatization, we no longer have the respiratory sound or the crepitus ronchus. By means of percussion the part

affected yields a dull sound.
In the third stage when the pus begins to soften we have the mucus ronchus which can be heard in the bronchia, sometimes the lung or lungs are the seat of abscesses. This happens when the pus is not expectorated or absorbed.
If this should be the case we then should have the mucus ronchus over the seat of the abscess, also pectoriloquy, and what is termed a bronchial or cavernous cough.
The disease may terminate favorably in all most any stage.
The general and local symptoms disappear gradually, the cough, fever, and pain abate, and the

sputa becomes normal again, and respiration more easy.

But in ever so favourable a termination we should caution the patient to be on his guard, lest he should have a relapse.

The symptoms of lung fever cannot be given exact, they differ so much in different cases. But the disease may generally be known by the following symptoms.

Flushed face, rigors and chills, followed by fever, difficulty of breathing, oppression of the chest, with quick anxious respiration, dull heavy pain deep in the chest, sometimes

cutting, lancinating, burning pains, the pains are much increased by inspiration. The breathing is carryed on principly by the abdominal muscles and diaphragm, especially if both lungs are involved.
The pain is felt at the seat of the inflammation. Cough which is at first dry and hacking, afterwards with slight expectoration of mucus, sometimes tinged with blood. As the disease advances it may become of a dirty straw or rust color, sometimes fetid or purulent, they generally ly upon their backs: intense heat of the skin: headache: thirst: the pulse is rather full: general

restlessness: red and sometimes scalding urine, which is at times scanty. The character of the expectoration during the first stage of the malady, is supposed by many to afford a characteristic mark of the disease, and it is from this circumstance, that Laennec, has denominated the sputa expectorated, pneumonic or gelatinous. During the stage of hepatization the sputa diminishes in quantity, becomes lighter in colour, and less transparent, untill finally when the third stage supervenes, expectoration of almost a mucus character occurs.

The principal remedies used in

Pneumonia are; Aconite. Bryona;
Belladonna., Puls. Tartarus emet.
Phosphorus; Nux-v; Mercurius;
Arnica; Sulphur.
Aconite is indicated when the fever
has a synochal character, with
hard, quick, and full pulse,
red face, chilliness with heat,
voilent pains in the chest, oppr-
ession of breathing, with great
anxiety.
Bryona, is an excellent remedy
when the inflammation was
occasioned by exposure to dry, and
cold weather, by muscular exertions &c,
when it is not entirely developed
or not voilent. It is also ind-
icated when the fever and pains

are moderate, the cough loose, with mucus blood-streaked or yellow expectoration, with oppression of the chest, but not excessive, and a constant desire to draw breath, or when there are rheumatic or bruising pains in the muscles of the chest or extremities.

Belladonna is suitable when the face is bloated and red, with congestion of blood to the brain, with delirium, the lips and tongue are cracked and dry, pulse, strong and quick; and it is also suitable if the disease threatens to assume a typhoid character, Belladonna is frequently

cald for after Aconite.

Pulsatilla should be exhibited when the disease assumes a rheumatic catarrhal character, pains quickly wandering from one part to another. Pains aggravated by pressure, copious expectoration but not bloody, rattling breathing &c &c.

Tartarus emeticus is a valuable remedy in the treatment of Pneumonia; especially in the second stage, the symptoms which indicate it are; loose cough with very profuse mucous expectoration, with great oppression and difficulty of breathing, which are relieved by the expectoration, the lung or lungs

yeald a dull sound on percussion, the sputa is a yellowish or brownish colour, sometimes contains blood; bronchial respiration, pulse very frequent but soft. It is also one of the best remedies in bilious Pneumonia with the following symptoms; the skin is of a yellowish tinge, with a dark yellow coting of the tongue, sometimes bilious vomiting; the urine is of a dark brownish color, the patient may be delerious, there are always more or less headache with debility. Phosphorus should be exibited when the following symptoms are present, itching and burning in the chest, accompanied with

violent stitches in different parts of the chest with difficulty of breathing, and a constrictive feel of the chest, oppression of the chest, with shortness of breath, the breathing becomes rattling, the cough hacking and hollow, with expectoration of mucus, the expectoration being of a tenacious character, and sometimes streaked with blood; short cough, with bloody expectoration, great fatigue after every paroxysm of coughing, with a sticking burning pain behind the sternum; and the lung over the affected part by percussion yealds a dull sound.

Nux-vomica is indicated when there

is congestion of blood to the chest with fetid breath, shortness of breath, the expectoration is very difficult, with a sanguineous character, which affoards much relief, a bruised feeling of the chest, especially in the regon of the sternum, the pulse weak, with a feeling of pressure in the chest. It is especially suitable in bilious Pneumonia. Mercurius is indicated when there is oppression of the chest, and shortness of breath, with a dull aching pain in the left chest, sometimes there is a burning stabbing pain, which impeds the breathing, there is a dry cough, with bloody

expectoration; pulse quick and full;
profuse sweat with offensive smell,
violent thirst, pain in all the limbs
as if bruised, and the region of
the liver is very sensative to
contact.

When inflammation of the lungs
is caused by mechanical injuries
Arnica is an exlent remedy.

Sulphur is an exlent remedy; when
the specific remedy does not have
its proper action; and is especially
suitable to scrofulous and psoric
individuals